



Lake Simcoe Watch Questions for York-Simcoe 2018 Federal By-Election Candidates

Lake Simcoe Water Quality and Cold Water Fishery

According to the *Lake Simcoe Protection Plan*, to improve the water quality of Lake Simcoe (e.g., reduction of weeds and algae blooms) and to protect our cold water fishery (e.g., lake trout and whitefish) Lake Simcoe's annual phosphorus loading must be reduced by 50% to 44 tonnes per year.

Streams that are affected by runoff (e.g., fertilizers, manure) from urban, rural and agricultural areas are responsible for more than half of Lake Simcoe's phosphorus loadings. Dust from construction sites, pits and quarries and agricultural lands is another major source of phosphorus.

Woodlands and wetlands help to regulate water quality by filtering out contaminants and absorbing excess nutrients before they reach the Lake. The loss of woodlands, wetlands and natural shorelines has led to increased phosphorus loadings into Lake Simcoe.

Unfortunately, the Government of Ontario's phosphorus reduction strategy does not include a specific plan for how to actually lower Lake Simcoe's phosphorus loadings to 44 tonnes per year.

(For more information please see: www.ontario.ca/page/lake-simcoe-phosphorus-reduction-strategy.)

Question #1: Should the Government of Canada provide funding to the Government of Ontario, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and/or municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed to assist with the development and implementation of a plan to reduce Lake Simcoe's phosphorus loadings to 44 tonnes per year by 2026?

Answer: Yes No Undecided

Additional Comments:

THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF LAKE SIMCOE WILL BE ONE OF MY BIGGEST PRIORITIES IF ELECTED. THE FORMER CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT LEAD BY STEPHEN HARPER AND REPRESENTED LOCALLY BY FORMER MP PETER VAN LOAN, INITIATED THE LAKE SIMCOE SOUTH-EASTERN GEORGIAN BAY CLEAN UP FUND WHICH HELPED SUPPORT COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAMS TO HELP LAKE SIMCOE. UNFORTUNATELY THE CURRENT LIBERAL GOVERNMENT CANCELLED THE LAST ROUND OF FUNDING. IF ELECTED I WILL CHAMPION THE RETURN OF FUNDING FOR THE HEALTH OF LAKE SIMCOE.

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